The text object (illustrated in Figure 3) comprises a plurality of component nodes 302-312. The next object can be represented as a text node tree, having branches (e.g. 313) wherein the component nodes 302-312 are positioned in a predetermined hierarchy. The "lowest" hierarchy is at the bottom of the text node tree and the "highest hierarchy is at the top of the text node tree. The node 302 at the top of the node tree will be referred to as the "root node. It will be appreciated that components of the text object can be stored in any convenient manner in a memory of a processing means, could be nested within each other, for example, refer to each other in some way, etc. The text object is able to be represented as a text node tree, but that does not mean that it is stored in memory in this way. As long as the components of the text object can be processed in such a fashion that the components act like component nodes of a text node tree as represented in the figure, then this is sufficient.